

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 MCT-01 OMB-01
TRSE-00 IO-13 /097 W
-----099380 231948Z /43

R 230726Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8254
INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USCINCEUR VAININGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0926

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, AG
SUBJECT: LABOR DIFFICULTIES IN ALGERIA

REF: ALGIERS 893

1. IT NOW APPEARS THAT EARLIER REPORTS OF LABOR DIFFICULTIES AT HOUSING CONSTRUCTION SITE IN BEJAIA TO EAST OF ALGIERS (REFTEL) MAY BE TRUE. ANTI-REGIME TRACT APPEARING HERE RECENTLY ASSERTS THAT STATE ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY SNERI (SOCIETE NATIONALEDES ETUDES, DE GESTION, DE REALIZATION ET D'EXPLOITATION) ASSERTS IT DISMISSED ALL WORKERS AT TWO SITES IN BEJAIA FOLLOWING A STRIKE. TRACT NOTES THAT LIGHT INDUSTRY MINISTER ABDESSELAM ORDERED THIS ACTION AND THAT HE HAD TAKEN SANCTIONS AGAINST WORKERS OF OTHER STATE COMPANIES UNDER HIS CONTROL DURING 1977. ON MARCH 22, OFFICIAL PRESS REPORTED THAT 1175 WORKERS AT SNERI'S BEJAIA HOUSING CONSTRUCTION SITE HAD RESUMED ON MARCH 20 AFTER HAVING
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BEEN CLOSED FOR NEARLY ONE MONTH. LATTER REPORT NOTED THAT SNERI WAS FAR BEHIND SCHEDULE IN ITS PROGRAM OF BUILDING 1600 HOUSING UNITS IN BEJAIA.

2. COMMENT: OFFICIAL PRESS STORY TENDS TO CORROBORATE THE ONE WE HAD HEARD THAT WORK AT CONSTRUCTION SITE HAD BEEN RESUMED. EARLIER REPORT HAD IT THAT ORIGINAL WORK

FORCE HAD BEEN DISMISSED AND REPLACED.

3. ABDESSELAM'S ABILITY TO TOLERATE LABOR DIFFICULTIES HAS BEEN LIMITED IN PAST. IN 1976, A RELATIVELY MINOR STRIKE AT A U.S.-ALGERIAN JOINT VENTURE DRILLING COMPANY LET HIM TO ORDER ALL STRIKING EMPLOYEES SUMMARILY DISMISSED, AN ACTION WHICH AMERICANS FOUND PRECIPITATE. HE IS ALSO SAID TO HAVE TAKEN SIMILAR ACTION IN EARLIER SONATRACH STRIKE.

4. IF REPORT OF FIRING OF SNERI WORKERS IS TRUE, IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE LARGEST SUCH ACTION TAKEN HERE IN RECENT YEARS. STEPHAN

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Message Attributes

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